



## **Web Services and the Mainframe**

For decades, the computer industry has struggled with the problem of how to get heterogeneous systems to interact and to pass data in a form that is self-describing. Probably nowhere is that problem more acute than in situations where open systems need to access and use mainframe data.

Fortunately, Web services and XML represent a great leap forward in making such access and interaction possible. This article first presents an overview of Web services focusing on the void that Web services fill, and explains the relevance of Web services to the mainframe.

The article then gives a real-life example of how Web services and XML are being implemented to enable the mainframe to participate in this new technology. Specifically, the Kansas Department of Transportation is using Web services and XML to get real-time access to mainframe data. The implementation is reliable, cost-effective and provides capabilities not available in the legacy application.

Finally, the article describes a new technology, Xbridge Host Data Connect™, which enables Windows and web applications to directly access mainframe data (VSAM, QSAM, DB2, IMS DB and IAM) and see that data in the format of the requesting application, all in real time. Host Data Connect delivers XML to either a Web page or another XML-enabled application, thus addressing a long-standing problem of data interchange for heterogonous applications.

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